

23. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein the first stage queue includes multiple first queues, and the step of storing the pointer to memory in the first stage queue comprises storing the pointer in a specific first queue based on a characteristic of the packet.

24. (NEW) The method of claim 22, wherein the second stage queue includes multiple second queues, and the step of storing the retrieved pointer to memory in the second stage queue comprises storing the retrieved pointer in a specific second queue based on a characteristic of the packet.

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 16-24 are now pending in this application, among which claim 22 stands allowed. Claims 1, 9, 13, 18, and 21 have been amended. Claims 23-24 have been added. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-24 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 12-14, 16, 20, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Bremer (U.S. Patent No. 6,032,190). Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bremer in view of either Demange (U.S. Patent No. 5,355,522), Hebb (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,864), or other allegedly admitted prior art. Claims 6, 8-10, and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended to include the limitation of claims 9 and 18, respectively, that the recited second stage queue stores packet-related data from the first stage queue "based on a characteristic of the packet." Claim 21 has also been amended to recite a "means for storing in a second stage queue associated with each determined destination port the packet-related data from the first stage queue based on a characteristic of a packet." As the Examiner has indicated with respect to claims 9 and 18, none of the cited references teach or suggest this limitation. Accordingly, claims 1, 13, and 21 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 17, and 19 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations that they contain.

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Claims 23 and 24 are new in this application. Claims 23 and 24 are allowable because they depend on claim 22, which the Examiner has indicated is in condition for allowance, and for the additional limitations that they contain.


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of claims 1-14 and 16-24.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the above-identified application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) In a switching device, a method of communicating data packets from sending ports to destination ports, the method comprising:

storing in a first stage queue packet-related data from a sending port;

determining from the packet-related data which destination ports are to receive the packet-related data in the first stage queue;

storing in a second stage queue associated with each determined destination port the packet-related data from the first stage queue based on a characteristic of the packet; and

transmitting the packet-related data in the second state queue to a switch fabric for completing the communication of the data packet from the sending port to each determined destination port.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each second stage queue includes multiple second queues, and the step of storing the data in the second stage queue comprises storing the data in a specific second queue based on ~~a~~ the characteristic of the packet.

13. (Amended) In a switching device, apparatus for communicating data packets from sending ports to destination ports, comprising:

a first stage queue storing packet-related data from a sending port;

a second stage queue associated with each of a set of destination ports storing the packet-related data from the first stage queue based on a characteristic of the packet; and

a switch fabric coupled to the second stage queue, the switch fabric using the packet-related data in the second stage queue for transmitting the data packet to a destination port.

18. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein each second stage queue includes multiple second queues, the data stored in a specific second queue based on ~~a~~ the characteristic of the packet.

21. (Amended) In a switching device, apparatus for communicating data packets from sending ports to destination ports, comprising:

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means for storing in a first stage queue packet-related data from a sending port;

means for determining from the packet-related data which destination ports are to receive the packet-related data in the first stage queue;

means for storing in a second stage queue associated with each determined destination port the packet-related data from the first stage queue based on a characteristic of a packet; and

means for transmitting the packet-related data in the second stage queue to a switch fabric for completing the communication of the data packet from the sending port to each determined destination port.

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